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NEW YEAR'S PERPLEXITIES.

BY CARRIE MAY ASHTON.

THERE are always a large class of people who put off selecting holiday gifts for their friends until the last few weeks, and sometimes until the last moment.

This article is for the benefit of such who are now wondering at the eleventh hour what they can give their numerous friends and relatives.

Among the season's novelties are handker-

latest thing in this line for the toilet table shows convex and concave plates in a pretty silver mounting.

Some of the new mirrors have frames fashioned in the form of wreaths of pansies, daisies and roses. Some are embossed, others plain, and still others ornamented with enamel.

An attractive gift suitable for "My lady's desk" is a little toilet desk lamp, which stands six inches high and has a silver plated base in open work pattern.

Miniature candlesticks are quite the style, and many a fair maid will find one on her desk on Christmas morning. The most effective has the base ornamented with forget-me-nots in natural colors. They are also found in pansies, violets, wild roses, marguerites and poppies.

Perfume atomizers can be found in a variety of new styles and are always welcome gifts.

Ring stands are in the form of a hooped standard like a strong tendril, with shoots to hold the rings.

An exquisite set of shell-shaped dishes for peaches or other fruit makes a most appropriate remembrance for the housewife.

An odd dish intended for grapes is ornamented with silver fruit.

Many of the new cake and fruit stands have a floral gold decoration running through a bright silver design.

A most exquisite dish for cherries is of fluted silver with a bunch of cherries for the handle.

A very handsome one for holding strawberries is also of silver, shaped like a leaf.

A quaint receptacle for bonbons is a large

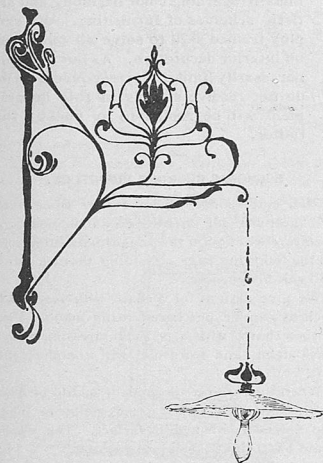


Fig. 1—Electric Light Wall Bracket.

IN our last issue we gave some designs in art metal work by Mr. Pepper, which were intended for execution in two metals. The work of this artist is of such intrinsic merit that no apology is necessary for giving our readers a further installment of his designs.

Fig. 1 is an electric light fitting in wrought iron, a charming conception for a wall bracket from which depends the incandescent lamp.

Figs. 2 and 3 are different renderings of the same idea. The structure of these brackets is at once apparent from the designs themselves.

Fig. 4 is an iron grille for a door panel, the characteristic lines of which are curved with a suave beauty. It is as artistic as it is simple. There is indeed a flavor of the same Persian feeling that characterizes his other work, and which is a great relief from the unmeaning intricacy of scroll work that belongs to much of our modern renaissance.

Fig. 5 is a tavern sign, to be wrought in iron and copper. The lion in copper on an iron shield would prove a most effective combination.

Work of this kind when not debased to a mere strap work of bent iron is exceedingly attractive, and we trust the designs herewith produced will give many suggestions to our readers for similar art metal work.

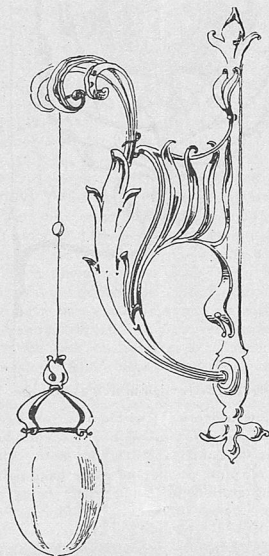


Fig. 2—Electric Light Wall Bracket.

chief purses, which are to be worn from the girdles now so popular. They are of silver web caught up with a slender chain.

Combination card cases and pocketbooks in seal, alligator, Brazilian lizard, and other leathers, mounted in silver, are unique and acceptable gifts which cannot fail to please the most fastidious.

A quaint novelty, which is useful as well as ornamental, is the trunk tag in silver gilt with a dull green enameled wreath inclosing the space intended for the name.

One can never have too many mirrors, and the

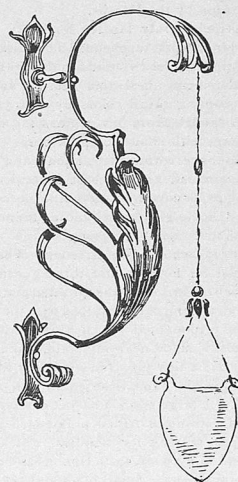


Fig. 3—Electric Light Wall Bracket.

facsimile of an oyster shell. It is gold lined and mounted on a pedestal composed of small sea shells.

A bonbon spoon accompanies this and consists of a small sea shell with a silver handle.

A silver pepper grinder has a cut-glass body.

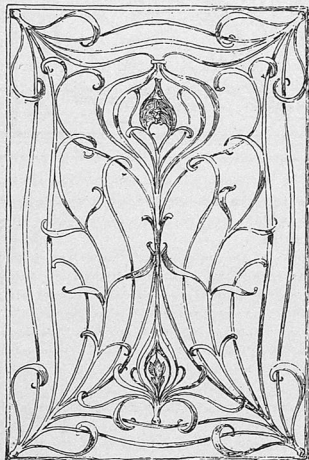


Fig. 4—Iron Grille for Door Panel.

One of the latest fads in silver is a little stand intended for biscuit, butter and cheese.

The center space is for biscuit, while on one side are receptacles for butter and on the other places for cheese.

Very novel are the new postal card racks of perforated silver. A stamp box is attached.

One of the newest ornaments for a desk consists of a bristle brush placed in a silver receptacle. This is intended for a pen sticker.

A small reading glass in a pretty gold frame with a handle is an acceptable gift for any one whose eyesight is at all dim.

DECORATIONS IN PAPER.

THE art of fashioning by hand dainty and elaborate novelties in fancy papers has been brought to a state nearly approaching perfection by the Heaths.

Among their dainty fancies we lately saw a table laid for a pink luncheon. The cover was of white crêpe paper two and a half yards wide, this fashion being new this season, and the material coming in all colors by the yard at \$1.50. A candelabrum of cut glass formed the center piece, with shades of pink crêpe paper; at two opposite corners stood pink and white Dresden candlesticks, each base concealed by a fluffy pink paper covering; at another corner was placed a delicate glass vase holding branches of pink Japanese cherry blossoms, while at the fourth was the small bell of Dresden. The table was spread for hostess and three guests. At each place was arranged the Dresden plate with pink doily; a menu card inscribed with the lady's name, and ornamented with a pink, white and gold butterfly, stood near one plate, while at the next was laid a tiny pink fan embellished with white violets, the name inserted on a bit of bristol board. A large bonbon basket of white rope paper had a lining of frilled pink-edged paper, three ropes serving for handles, which were caught on top by whitesatin ribbons and a cluster of white violets. Small bonbonnières had a butterfly attached to each by a fine wire spiral;

the almond-baskets were diminutive heart-shaped trifles of pink rope paper, flowers and ribbon; while the fancy desert cups for holding an ice were varied in design, one representing a pink-tipped tulip, another a fluted cup, covered in a ruffle of white and pink paper, and encircled by a vine of morning glories in tint carrying out the general scheme of color. This same crêpe paper is applied to the drapery of a toilet table illustrated, and is also used in the fashioning of sundry boxes, trays and sachets.

Shades for electric lights simulating larger tulips can be found in different colors; white and cerise, rose or rich golden-yellow tipped with deep reds and browns.

A unique trellis of rope is designed to fit over



Fig. 5—Tavern Sign in Iron and Copper.

a window or doorway; within a narrow wooden frame the ropes cross diagonally back and forth, forming diamonds, and over this network trail vines of pink, purple and white hand-painted morning glories, the whole effect being most artistic.—*Harper's Bazar*.



Design in Carved Wood for Side of a Box.

CARVED WOOD-WORK.

MANY an amateur art worker is desirous of contributing an example of his or her artistical ability to friends at Christmas time.

A carved box is always attractive, and is par-

ticularly valuable if the work executed thereon is of artistic merit.

We present our readers herewith with a design for a panel to occupy the side of such a box, the design being by George K. France. The design is a very realistic representation of a fish, swimming in the floating sea-weed. Fishes are a fruitful source of attractive composition, their flexibility rendering them easy of adaptation to any purpose required.



Important Notice. Our readers who are either building new houses, or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions on interior decoration. As our space is necessarily limited, correspondents who do not receive a reply in this department will be replied to by mail by the Editor.

ECONOMIC BEDROOM FURNITURE.

THE correspondent who desires some suggestions for artistic economic bedroom furniture will find in the suggestions submitted on the following page something that we think will suit his purpose.

We give designs for a chair, with reed seat, such as can be purchased ready made. Two of such chairs, with a pedestal, dressing table, wash-stand, and wardrobe will complete the suit.

When the furniture is made it should be delicately stained in either green, yellow or blue, and finished with a dull surface. The wash-stand has a chintz curtained back.

FURNITURE FOR A DINING ROOM.

To the Editor.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

DEAR SIR: Can you give me a list of furniture proper for a dining room?

Yours truly, MRS. H. B. BROWN.

ANSWER.

A dining room requires a table and side table, or sideboard and six or eight chairs. The wood of all should be similar to the finish of the room, generally oak, cherry or ash.

An extension table three and a half feet wide

and extending six feet costs \$8 and upward. It is best to buy a table at least four feet wide, as the narrow width crowds the dishes in serving the meals.

The cheapest chairs suitable for a dining